GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1418
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001
LAND REFORMS
SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Land Reforms is an important policy instrument for the alleviation of rural poverty during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) if so, the progress made in various States in this regard;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has expressed its unhappiness over the lack of progress on this aspect in its mid-term plan appraisal; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHED M.K. PATIL)

(a) to (d) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1418 DUE FOR REPLY ON 27.11.2001

(a) to (d) : The Schemes/activities undertaken towards land reforms have brought about a significant change in agrarian structure. 92% of the holdings are now wholly owned and self-operative in the country. Ownership rights have been granted to 20 million tillers and an area of 5.31 million acres of ceiling surplus land has been distributed to 5.54 million rural poor. Moreover, an area of 14.75 million acres of Government Wastelands and 2.18 million acres of Bhoodan land have also been distributed among the eligible rural poor. That apart, 12.42 million tenants have their rights protected over an area of 15.63 million acres of land and 0.43 million acres of alienated land has been restored to STs. The Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records has been implemented in 569 districts of the country out of 599 districts.

The Planning Commission had observed in its mid-term plan appraisal that several factors had constrained the progress of Computerisation of Land Records such as delay in transfer of funds to the implementing authority by the State Governments, power shortages and delay in the construction of room with air conditioner for installation of computer and other equipment, delay in development of appropriate and comprehensive software as per requirement of the State Government, delay in supply and installation of the hardware, lack of adequate training facilities to staff to handle computers and non-availability of good vendors for taking up data entry work.

With a view to speeding up the progress of the Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records, the State Govt.s/UTs were impressed upon to take effective steps for transfer of funds to the implementing Agencies in time and also to take up data entry work through private vendor so that the work could be completed within a specified time-frame. The State Govt.s/UTs have also been requested to procure and install hardware at the earliest and organise basic training programmes in order to train the Revenue Officials at the taluk level to facilitate speedy implementation of the Scheme.